

## MEETING OF

### THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, November 18, 2009, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Edwin Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC)
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer	G. Ray Staats
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.	

Absent: Joseph Wick, the Hon. Velda Jones-Potter, and Lyn Davenport.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. with prayer.

#### I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 1,031 farms in preservation districts totaling 150,519 acres, with a total of 564 farms under agricultural easements totaling 94,534 acres at a cost of \$158,309,782. For PDR 15 there are a total of 54 farms, comprising 3,985 acres, with a value of \$52,263,437. For PDR 16, there are a total of 9 farms, comprising 577 acres, with a value of \$6,895,414. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 34 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,506 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Areas Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 871 acres, with a value of \$1,448,482.

Michael McGrath informed the Board that with the latest anticipated appropriation from NRCS of \$4.9M the Foundation will have approximately \$11M of Federal funds to match. It was suggested that a letter be prepared outlining our need for matching funds.

#### II. District Eligibility:

1. D. Brittingham Trustee District, ID#S-09-07-254. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility the D. Brittingham Trustee District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### III. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Anthony Crisco Expansion of the Clearbrook Farm District, ID#S-09-06-076C. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Anthony Crisco Expansion of the Clearbrook Farm District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Hoff Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, ID#K-09-09-120D. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Hoff Expansion of the Dulin Brothers District, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Lofland Expansion of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, ID#S-09-08-193G. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Lofland Expansion of the W.G. Passwaters #2 District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary Kee waived his right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

V. Public Comments – No public comments were received.

VI. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 9, 2009, minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Allen Messick moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

Next, Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the October 14, 2009 minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Kevin Coyle moved to approve the October minutes, seconded by Ray Staats. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of September 2009, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of September 30, 2009, \$175,990.02 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$98.18 from rollback taxes and \$385.00 interest income. Expenditures for the month of September totaled \$25,061.77. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to approve the September 2009 financial statement as presented, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

Howard Mesick then presented the Financial Statement for the month of October 2009, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of October 31, 2009, \$366,478.90 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$64.17 from rollback taxes and \$195.00 interest income. Expenditures for the month of October totaled \$30,674.48. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to approve the October 2009 financial statement as presented, seconded by Ray Staats. Motion unanimously approved.**

VIII. Executive Session – There was no need for an executive session.

IX. Other Business:

1. Digital Soils Maps – Foundation Meeting Staff Reviews

Milton Melendez presented the new digital soils maps which the staff are using for their reviews for the Foundation Board. The handout showed the old versus the new digital soil types and the Land Evaluation scores. Michael McGrath informed the Board that at the NRCS site it shows the new soil types and you can map your own farm using these new soil types. After January 2010 we propose to go to the new soil types for our LESA scores on the properties which come into the program. We will not change the old LESA scores. The Board will need to approve the use of the new soil types for the LESA scores.

The Wilson Farm was discussed. Michael McGrath informed the Board that we are on track to get the new lease approved at the January Foundation meeting.

2. Foundation Meeting Schedule for 2010

The schedule for the Foundation meetings in 2010 was handed out showing the dates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. After discussion it was decided to schedule the Foundation Board meetings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. **A motion was made by Allen Messick, Jr. to approve the 2010 schedule of Foundation meetings to be held on the third Wednesday of every month, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on December 9, 2009 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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William Vanderwende  
Vice Chairman